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TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 1953

Having arrived at Bad Godesborg at eight o'clock, we went directly to Jim Conant's house and had breakfast with the Conants, and Al Gruenther. Al is flying back to Paris during the morning.

At nine o'clock Jim and I called on Hallstein and had a talk with him on the Saar question before going in to see the Chancellor. We spent an hour or so with Messrs. Adenauer, Hallstein and an interpreter. Adenauer said the initial conversations with Francois-Poncet had gone badly but, upon his receipt of fresh instructions from Bidault, he had had a much-improved conversation with Francois-Poncet on Saturday. He said Poncet is sincerely desirous of bringing about a Franco-German understanding. The Chancellor read us extracts from the Franco-Saar convention, particularly Article 17, which he thinks will make any agreement on this problem exceedingly difficult. He spoke of these accords as giving to France a domination of the Saar which goes beyond reducing it even to colonial status. It was evident he does not believe he will be able to resolve this problem with the present French Government since he does not expect it to last long. I advised him as emphatically as possible to proceed with Bidault and reach an agreement in principle, which at least would have a great influence on determining the course of action in this regard of any successor government. I spoke of the strong feeling of impatience at home over the delay of the French in bringing the EDC treaty to a parliamentary vote but told him our liberty of action would be greatly curtailed until it was clear whether or not he and Bidault would be able to put themselves in accord on the Saar. We discussed a great many details concerning ~~this negotiation. The Chancellor made~~ one especially interesting statement. He said at the proper time he would be perfectly willing to present to the German people a ~~proposed settlement in which~~ he would acknowledge the legi mate claims of France to obtain reparations from

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the Saar because of the destruction caused to France by German attacks and occupation. I suggested the importance, if it were practicable, of proceeding so rapidly with these conversations that they might successfully terminate before the Bermuda meeting, or at worst before the election of a President of the French Republic. He answered he did not believe this could be done.

E. and I motored down the autobahn to Frankfurt. It took us just two hours after we [redacted] crossed over the Rhine from Bad Godesborg. We had lunch at the Frankfurter Hof.

Then I went to General Handy's great headquarters in the sprawling I. G. Farben Building. Tom Handy had gathered together his high officers from all over Germany and the room seemed filled with Generals, Admirals, and field grade officers and their naval equivalents. After an intelligence briefing, I dissertated on European integration. The impatience of those present with the delays interposed by the French to a definite decision by France on the EDC treaty was made entirely plain. I think it was a useful conference.

I repaired to Tony Satterthwaite's office where we found news of the situation affecting the airfields in Paris. They are all closed down by fog and Al Gruenther, who has been circling the skies for the last five or six hours, unable to land at Paris, is due to set down on the Frankfurt airport in a few minutes. We went out to have cocktails with the Satterthwaites, then dined at the Frankfurter Hof and took the night train to Paris.

During the early evening we visited two antique shops but bought nothing. The prices are [redacted] high.

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